

SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR ASSOCIATING A DLPDU RECEIVED BY  
AN INTERFACE CHIP WITH A DATA MEASUREMENT MADE BY AN  
EXTERNAL CIRCUIT

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A diagnostic tool has a packet based network medium attachment unit, a measurement interface, a network interface, and a microprocessor for reading DLPDUs from a network segment and for taking simultaneous measurements of DLPDUs on the segment. The measurement data is associated with a stored DLPDU if the DLPDU is still active on the network segment when the measurement data is read by the microprocessor. The diagnostic tool utilizes a currently active attribute to determine the status of a DLPDU.